Restoration, Forest Projects (FINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:	Version # _____	APP # 700555

A. List of Restoration Activities

The Inyo National Forest is proposing to restore areas where unauthorized routes and incursions into closed areas (designated wilderness and previously closed and restored sites) are resulting in impacts to sensitive resources. This restoration project would be focused on the implementation of the Inyo National Forest Travel Management Record of Decision (ROD, 2009) and the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. Project planning (design and environmental analysis) will identify site specific restoration needs based on site specific conditions, and the implementation of restoration work based on planning would be completed as part of this project grant request. Restoration activities would include placing physical barriers, raking of tracks, breaking up compacted soils, recontouring, vertical mulching with native materials, and planting native vegetation to restore these areas to natural conditions. This project is intended to reduce impacts to soils, vegetation, and water quality, as well as protect other resource values such as wildlife habitat, sensitive plants, heritage resources, visual quality, and wilderness character. Restoration work would be completed with heavy equipment or small trail tractor, and by hand using conventional hand tools. The restoration areas would be posted with signs, and would be patrolled and monitored for effectiveness. Restoration work would include the following four project areas:

Mammoth Creek Watershed (HUC 6) Restoration: Planning and implementation of a restoration project in the Mammoth Creek Watershed would focus on evaluating approximately 20 miles of routes that were not designated as part of the Inyo National Forest Travel Management ROD (2009), and are not authorized for OHV use. The Mammoth Creek Watershed is a priority watershed and a 303d listed water body, containing stream and riparian habitats including Mammoth Creek.

Wilderness Road Restoration (Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009): On March 30, 2009, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 designated the White Mountains Wilderness and Owens River Headwaters Wilderness, and resulted in additions to the John Muir Wilderness (Public Law 111-11, Title I, Subtitle K). Most of the main motorized travel routes were cherry-stemmed allowing for continued motorized vehicle travel on these routes, however up to 40 miles of unauthorized routes provide access to and extend into the designated wilderness areas.

Black Canyon Restoration: Planning and implementation of a restoration project to close and restore a section of National Forest System Road (NFS) 07S16. NFS 07S16 is located on the west side of the White Mountains, and provides OHV access to Black Canyon spring and cabin site. As part of the Travel Management ROD (2009), a route that bypasses this section and provides access to this popular destination was designated, which alleviated the need for this section of the NFS route. The section of NFS that is proposed for removal from the system and active restoration is located within a sensitive riparian area, which serves as critical wildlife habitat in a dry environment where riparian areas are very limited.

Mono Craters Restoration: Planning and implementation of a restoration project in the Mono Craters area would focus on evaluating approximately 50 miles of routes that were not designated as part of the Inyo National Forest Travel Management ROD (2009), and are not authorized for OHV use. The project area encompasses the Mono Craters, a chain of volcanic features that are located south of Mono Lake, predominantly within the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area. The majority of the unauthorized routes are located within terrain consisting of deep pumice soils and sharp obsidian and rhyolite rock, and contains sensitive cultural features, unique geologic features, and sensitive vegetation. In addition to restoration of unauthorized routes, two unauthorized "play areas", including a 650 foot hill climb visible from Highway 395, within the congressionally designated Scenic Area would be restored.

As mentioned above, project planning would be completed prior to any on the ground implementation efforts, and would include full project designs and environmental analysis. This includes conducting site visits and field surveys to develop the proposed action, engaging the public in the proposed restoration efforts, completion of specialist reports, and ultimately completing the NEPA analysis and documentation. The project design and NEPA analysis will provide site-specific restoration needs based on specific site conditions. Project planning would be expected to be completed in 2011/2012 and implementation would begin during the summer/fall months of 2011, with most of the restoration work completed in 2012

and 2013. Monitoring would occur for several years following implementation.

B. Describe how the proposed Project relates to OHV Recreation and how OHV Recreation caused the damage:

This project focuses on the restoration of unauthorized routes, as well as one National Forest System route, which have been primarily used for OHV recreation. Many of these routes contribute to high road densities and are located within sensitive areas (meadow and riparian areas, sensitive wildlife and plant habitat, cultural resource sites). Unauthorized routes that extend into designated wilderness encourage illegal motorized incursions and degrade wilderness character. In addition, some of the routes are located in highly visible areas where scenic quality is being impacted. For the reasons described above (and other reasons that are not mentioned here), these routes were not designated as part of the Travel Management Record of Decision (2009). These routes that are not authorized for OHV use are still evident on the ground, and may continue to receive some limited OHV use until restoration efforts are initiated.

This project involves restoration activities, which are an integral part of a safe and responsible, well-managed OHV program that focuses on providing a quality OHV recreation experience while minimizing impacts to natural resources. This project will ensure the long-term sustainability of motorized vehicle recreation by restoring areas that have been impacted by such use. The project area encompasses some of the highest used OHV locations across the Forest and areas that are highly visible. Continued OHV use of unauthorized routes, illegal incursions into closed areas (such as designated wilderness and former restoration areas), loss of vegetation, and impacts to water quality and other sensitive resources could adversely affect OHV opportunities.

C. Describe the size of the specific Project Area(s) in acres and/or miles

The four project area locations includes:

Mammoth Creek Watershed – The Mammoth Creek Watershed is located in the vicinity of Mammoth Lakes, CA and is approximately 26,300 acres. There are approximately 20 miles of unauthorized routes that are included in this part of the project proposal.

Wilderness Road Restoration – The Wilderness Road Restoration project is located in the vicinity of the Owens River Headwaters Wilderness (approximately 15 miles of unauthorized routes), west side of the White Mountains Wilderness (approximately 20 miles of unauthorized routes), and east side of the John Muir Wilderness between Rock Creek Canyon and Onion Valley (approximately 5 miles of unauthorized routes). There are up to 40 miles of unauthorized routes that are included in this part of the project proposal.

Black Canyon Restoration – The Black Canyon Restoration project is located on the west side of the White Mountains within Black Canyon. Approximately 1 mile of National Forest System road 07S16 would be removed from the transportation system, and would be restored.

Mono Craters Restoration - The Mono Craters Restoration project is located within the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, south of Mono Lake, in the vicinity of Mono Craters. The project area is approximately 25,000 acres, and there are approximately 50 miles of unauthorized routes that are included in this part of the project proposal.

D. Monitoring and Methodology

Monitoring would be conducted by OHV personnel on a routine basis and Forest resource specialists annually to determine the projects' effectiveness, and need for additional treatments. The project will be successful if it meets the following criteria:

• No evidence of new (illegal) OHV use in closed/restored areas

• Restored areas show signs of improved soil conditions and vegetative recovery

Monitoring would included the following methodologies:

Personnel would document observations (i.e. evidence of motorized vehicle incursions, such as tire tracks, reports from the public, or actual observations). If OHV use is still occuring or restoration areas are not showing signs of improvement,

additional restoration work would be completed incorporating appropriate strategies to eliminate illegal OHV use and continue to improve resource conditions. These adaptive management strategies will ensure long-term success in these areas.

Photo point monitoring and observations would occur to determine if soil and vegetation conditions have improved. Photo points would be established prior to the implementation of project activities. Pre- and post project photos and observations would document the bare soil and vegetation conditions (i.e. percent ground cover, etc.). These photo points and observations would determine if vegetation cover is increasing as a result of project activities. The areas would be routinely patrolled, however formal site visits would occur at least once per summer for the first two years following implementation. The initial monitoring effort (first two growing seasons) is expected to provide some indication of vegetation recovery to determine the success of the restoration project. The Forest will conduct Best Management Practices effectiveness monitoring and Red, Yellow, Green soil loss monitoring on a subset of closed routes to track the success of the restoration effort. Depending on the success of the project, the restoration sites would be monitored at longer intervals during the next 10 years.

E. List of Reports

Planning would need to be conducted prior to implementation of the proposed project. The following documents would be produced from this planning effort, and would be part of the project file:

NEPA documentation - Would include the purpose and need, proposed action, public involvement efforts, and the environmental analysis. Supporting documentation includes, Biological Assessment/Evaluation for plants; Noxious Weed Risk Assessment; Biological Assessment/Evaluation for wildlife, and Heritage Resource Report.

Monitoring Report - Includes photo points and documented observations that would be produced and updated to include project planning (pre-project monitoring), implementation, and post project monitoring information. The monitoring report would also serve as an accomplishment report, and would describe the work that was completed.

F. Goals, Objectives and Methodology / Peer Reviews

N/A - This restoration project does not involve scientific and cultural studies.

G. Plan for Protection of Restored Area

The restoration areas would be a focus area for patrol by OHV patrols (Forest Protection Officers) and Forest Law Enforcement Officers, as part of the ongoing monitoring, education, and enforcement efforts. In the last two years, the Forest compliment of Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) has risen from one officer to five LEOs, greatly increasing the field presence and enforcement needed to educate the public and protect these types of restored areas. Most of the restoration areas are located in highly visible areas and would be patrolled regularly throughout the high use periods (May-October).

As part of the restoration activities, barriers would be installed to keep motorized vehicles out of closed and restored areas. Signs would be installed and regularly maintained to ensure protection of the restored area. Monitoring, as described above would also insure project success.

Additional Documentation

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:	Version # _____	APP # 700555

1. Project-Specific Maps

Attachments:

Mammoth Creek Restoration
Wilderness Road Restoration - White Mtns. and Owens Headwaters
Wilderness Road Restoration - John Muir
Black Canyon Restoration
Mono Craters Restoration

2. Project-Specific Photos

Attachments:

Photos of Restoration Areas

Project Cost Estimate

	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Version # _____ APP # _____		
APPLICANT NAME :	USFS - Inyo National Forest		
PROJECT TITLE :	Restoration, Forest Projects (FINAL)	**PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :**	G09-02-05-R02
PROJECT TYPE :	☐ Acquisition ☐ Development ☐ Education & Safety ☐ Ground Operations ☐ Law Enforcement ☐ Planning ☑ Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	The Inyo National Forest is proposing to restore areas where unauthorized routes and incursions into closed areas (designated wilderness and previously closed and restored sites) are resulting in impacts to sensitive resources. This restoration project would be focused on the implementation of the Inyo National Forest Travel Management Record of Decision (ROD, 2009) and the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. Project planning (design and environmental analysis) will identify site specific restoration needs based on site specific conditions, and the implementation of restoration work based on planning would be completed as part of this project grant request. Restoration activities would include placing physical barriers, raking of tracks, breaking up compacted soils, recontouring, vertical mulching with native materials, and planting native vegetation to restore these areas to natural conditions. This project is intended to reduce impacts to soils, vegetation, and water quality, as well as protect other resource values such as wildlife habitat, sensitive plants, heritage resources, visual quality, and wilderness character. Restoration work would be completed with heavy equipment or small trail tractor, and by hand using conventional hand tools. The restoration areas would be posted with signs, and would be patrolled and monitored for effectiveness. Restoration work would include the following four project areas: Mammoth Creek Watershed (HUC 6) Restoration: Planning and implementation of a restoration project in the Mammoth Creek Watershed would focus on evaluating approximately 20 miles of routes that were not designated as part of the Inyo National Forest Travel Management ROD (2009), and are not authorized for OHV use. The Mammoth Creek Watershed is a priority watershed and a 303d listed water body, containing stream and riparian habitats including Mammoth Creek. Wilderness Road Restoration (Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009): On March 30, 2009, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 designated the White Mountains Wilderness and Owens River Headwaters Wilderness, and resulted in additions to the John Muir Wilderness (Public Law 111-11, Title I, Subtitle K). Most of the main motorized travel routes were cherry-stemmed allowing for continued motorized vehicle travel on these routes, however up to 40 miles of unauthorized routes provide access to and extend into the designated wilderness areas. Black Canyon Restoration: Planning and implementation of a restoration project to close and restore a section of National Forest System Road (NFS) 07S16. NFS 07S16 is located on the west side of the White Mountains, and provides OHV access to Black Canyon spring and cabin site. As part of the Travel Management ROD (2009), a route that bypasses this section and provides access to this popular destination was designated, which alleviated the need for this section of the NFS route. The section of NFS that is proposed for removal from the system and active restoration is located within a sensitive riparian area, which serves as critical wildlife habitat in a dry environment where riparian areas are very limited. Mono Craters Restoration: Planning and implementation of a restoration project in the Mono Craters area would focus on evaluating approximately 50 miles of routes that were not designated as part of the Inyo National Forest Travel Management ROD (2009), and are not authorized for OHV use. The project area encompasses the Mono Craters, a chain of volcanic features that are located south of Mono Lake, predominantly within the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area. The majority of the unauthorized routes are located within terrain consisting of deep pumice soils and sharp obsidian and rhyolite rock, and contains sensitive cultural features, unique geologic features, and sensitive vegetation. In addition to restoration of unauthorized routes,		

	two unauthorized "play areas", including a 650 foot hill climb visible from Highway 395, within the congressionally designated Scenic Area would be restored. As mentioned above, project planning would be completed prior to any on the ground implementation efforts, and would include full project designs and environmental analysis. This includes conducting site visits and field surveys to develop the proposed action, engaging the public in the proposed restoration efforts, completion of specialist reports, and ultimately completing the NEPA analysis and documentation. The project design and NEPA analysis will provide site-specific restoration needs based on specific site conditions. Project planning would be expected to be completed in 2011/2012 and implementation would begin during the summer/fall months of 2011, with most of the restoration work completed in 2012 and 2013. Monitoring would occur for several years following implementation.

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	**Staff**						
	Other-Project Leader/Coordinator Notes : Lead project planning efforts, including developing proposed action, public involvement, and complete the environmental analysis. Coordinate implementation and monitoring. Mammoth Creek - 50 days Wilderness - 60 days Black Canyon - 25 days Mono Craters - 50 days	185.000	350.000	DAY	54,250.00	10,500.00	64,750.00
	Other-Hydrologist Notes : Field visits, project design, recommendations for implementation, watershed reports, and monitoring. Mammoth Creek - 30 days Wilderness - 10 days Black Canyon - 20 days Mono Craters - 10 days	70.000	350.000	DAY	17,500.00	7,000.00	24,500.00
	Archeologist Notes : Field surveys, Heritage Resource Report, tribal consultation, SHPO consultation, and monitoring. Mammoth Creek - 20 days	90.000	350.000	DAY	31,500.00	0.00	31,500.00

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Wilderness - 30 days Black Canyon - 10 days Mono Craters - 30 days						
	Other-Tribal Monitor Notes : Onsite during project implementation to monitor for cultural resources as part of tribal consultation. Mammoth Creek - 10 days Wilderness - 5 days Black Canyon - 5 days Mono Craters - 10 days	20.000	350.000	DAY	7,000.00	0.00	7,000.00
	Other-Wildlife Biologist Notes : Field Surveys, Biological Evaluations. Mammoth Creek - 10 days Wilderness - 15 days Black Canyon - 5 days Mono Craters - 10 days	40.000	350.000	DAY	14,000.00	0.00	14,000.00
	Other-Fisheries Biologist Notes : Field Surveys, Biological Evaluations. Mammoth Creek - 10 days Wilderness - 5 days Black Canyon - 10 days Mono Craters - 5 days	30.000	350.000	DAY	10,500.00	0.00	10,500.00
	Botanist Notes : Field Surveys, Biological Evaluations, and Noxious Weed Risk Assessments. Mammoth Creek - 20 days Wilderness - 25 days Black Canyon - 5 days Mono Craters - 25 days	75.000	350.000	DAY	26,250.00	0.00	26,250.00
	Other-Restoration Crew	1050.000	150.000	DAY	157,500.00	0.00	157,500.00

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Notes : 5 person crew, including crew leader for 210 days to complete hand work. Forest crew, Friends of the Inyo crew, or Student Conservation Association (SCA) crew. Mammoth Creek - 40 days Wilderness - 80 days Black Canyon - 30 days Mono Craters - 60 days						
	Other-Equipment Operator Notes : Implementation of restoration activities. Includes transport, operation, and maintenance that is related to the restoration project. Mammoth Creek - 30 days Wilderness - 10 days Black Canyon - 20 days Mono Craters - 20 days	80.000	350.000	DAY	28,000.00	0.00	28,000.00
	Other-Volunteers Notes : Individual and sponsored volunteers. OHV user groups, Friend of the Inyo, etc. Average crew of 4 volunteers for 50 days for implementation and monitoring. Mammoth Creek - 10 days Wilderness - 10 days Black Canyon - 10 days Mono Craters - 20 days	200.000	130.000	DAY	0.00	26,000.00	26,000.00
	Other-OHV Patrols Notes : Patrol, monitoring, and maintenance of restoration sites (i.e. signage, barriers, public education, enforcement). Mammoth Creek - 20 days Wilderness - 30 days Black Canyon - 10 days Mono Craters - 20 days	80.000	160.000	DAY	12,800.00	0.00	12,800.00

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Other-Forest Recreation Officer Notes : OHV restoration program oversight as part of Travel Management implementation and Wilderness Management. Directly involved with project treatments, as well as supporting the NEPA analysis.	40.000	400.000	DAY	0.00	16,000.00	16,000.00
	Other-Forest Resource Officer Notes : OHV restoration project oversight as related to natural resource management (i.e. watershed resources, wildlife, plants, and cultural resources). Supports the project design, NEPA analysis, and project implementation.	40.000	400.000	DAY	0.00	16,000.00	16,000.00
	Other-Forest Planner Notes : Program oversight for planning and environmental analysis.	30.000	350.000	DAY	0.00	10,500.00	10,500.00
	Other-Resource Crew Supervisor Notes : Resource crew supervisor that provides oversight (hiring, training, directing work, quality control, and other logistics) of the crew during implementation. Mammoth Creek - 20 days Wilderness - 20 days Black Canyon - 20 days Mono Craters - 20 days	80.000	250.000	DAY	15,000.00	5,000.00	20,000.00
	Other-Recreation Specialist Notes : District Recreation specialist (OHV program manager/Wilderness Manager) to provide input into project design and development of proposed action in support of the NEPA analysis. Mammoth Creek - 15 days Wilderness - 20 days Black Canyon - 5 days Mono Craters - 15 days	55.000	350.000	DAY	19,250.00	0.00	19,250.00
	Other-GIS specialist	35.000	250.000	DAY	6,250.00	2,500.00	8,750.00

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Notes : Provide GIS data analysis and mapping support as part of project planning, monitoring, and documenting accomplishments. Mammoth Creek - 10 days Wilderness - 10 days Black Canyon - 5 days Mono Craters - 10 days						
	Total for Staff				399,800.00	93,500.00	493,300.00
2	**Contracts**						
3	**Materials / Supplies**						
	Signs Notes : Carsonite signs and stickers.	300.000	30.000	EA	9,000.00	0.00	9,000.00
	Other-Tools Notes : Shovels, pulaskis, rock bars, wheel barrows, rakes, carsonite sign installer, chainsaws, etc.	1.000	3500.000	EA	1,000.00	2,500.00	3,500.00
	Other-Personal Protective Equipment Notes : Gloves, goggles, hard hats, chaps, back packs, water filters, and other camping gear, first aid kits, etc.	1.000	3500.000	EA	1,000.00	2,500.00	3,500.00
	Total for Materials / Supplies				11,000.00	5,000.00	16,000.00
4	**Equipment Use Expenses**						
	Other-Vehicle FOR (monthly fleet fee) Notes : Monthly cost for vehicles in support of planning, implementation, and monitoring. Project Leader/Coordinator Vehicles - 9 months Resource Specialist Vehicles - 12 months Resource Crew Vehicles -12 months Equipment Operator Vehicles - 4 months OHV Patrol Vehicles - 4 months Total = 41 months over 3 year period.	41.000	325.000	MOS	0.00	13,325.00	13,325.00

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Other-Vehicle Mileage (FS vehicles) Notes : Estimated mileage for planning, implementation, and monitoring. Mileage rate for FS owned vehicles is $.50/mile. Project Leader/Coordinator Vehicles - 4,000 miles Resource Specialist Vehicles - 3,000 miles Restoration Crew Vehicles - 6,000 miles Equipment Operator Vehicles - 3,000 miles OHV Patrol Vehicles - 3,000 miles Total = 19,000 miles over 3 year period.	19000.000	0.500	MI	0.00	9,500.00	9,500.00
	Total for Equipment Use Expenses				0.00	22,825.00	22,825.00
5	**Equipment Purchases**						
6	**Others**						
	Other-Per Diem Notes : Per Diem for camping overnight for the projects that are located in remote locations. Crew of 5 @ $54/person/day. Mammoth Creek - 0 days Wilderness - 200 days (40 days for crew of 5) Black Canyon - 100 days (20 days for crew of 5) Mono Craters - 75 days (15 days crew of 5) Total = 285 days per diem.	285.000	54.000	DAY	15,390.00	0.00	15,390.00
7	**Indirect Costs**						
	Indirect Costs-Indirect Costs Notes : Administrative Costs for OHV Restoration Program and Grant Administration, including program oversight, supervision, budgeting, tracking budget/expenditures, billing, record keeping, etc.	1.000	38000.000	MISC	0.00	38,000.00	38,000.00
Total Program Expenses					426,190.00	159,325.00	585,515.00
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES					426,190.00	159,325.00	585,515.00

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
TOTAL EXPENDITURES					**426,190.00**	**159,325.00**	**585,515.00**

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	399,800.00	93,500.00	493,300.00	
2	Contracts	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	11,000.00	5,000.00	16,000.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	22,825.00	22,825.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	15,390.00	0.00	15,390.00	
7	Indirect Costs	0.00	38,000.00	38,000.00	
Total Program Expenses		426,190.00	159,325.00	585,515.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		426,190.00	159,325.00	585,515.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		**426,190.00**	**159,325.00**	**585,515.00**	

Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:	Version # _____	APP # 700555

ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? (Please select Yes or No) ○ Yes ◉ No

ITEM 2

b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) ◉ Yes ○ No

ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a “Project” under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? (Please select Yes or No) ○ Yes ○ No

d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a “Project” under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ○ Yes ○ No

e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a “Project” under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10

ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ○ Yes ○ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ○ Yes ○ No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Evaluation Criteria

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Version # _____ APP # 700555

1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the Project costs covered by the Applicant is: 3

(Note: This field will auto-populate once the Cost Estimate and Evaluation Criteria are Validated.) (Please select one from list)

- ○ 76% or more (10 points)
- ○ 51% - 75% (5 points)
- ◉ 26% - 50% (3 points)
- ○ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 2.

2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Failure to fund the Project will result in adverse impacts to: 18

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☑ Domestic water supply (4 points)
- ☐ Archeological and historical resources identified in the California Register of Historical Resources or the Federal Register of Historic Places (3 points)
- ☑ Stream or other watercourse (3 points)
- ☑ Soils - Site actively eroding (2 points)
- ☑ Sensitive areas (e.g., wilderness, riparian, wetlands, ACEC) (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6) Enter number of sensitive habitats [4]
- ☐ Threatened and Endangered (T&E) listed species (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6) Enter number of T&E species
- ☑ Other special-status species- Number of special-status species (1 point each, up to a maximum of 3) Enter number of special-status species [3]

Describe the type and severity of impacts that might occur relative to the checked item(s):

The restoration project occurs within watersheds that drain into the Owens Valley, which is a municipal water supply for Southern California. Many of the unauthorized routes that would be restored occur in the vicinity of streams and riparian areas. The lack of vegetative cover and bare ground is leading to increased erosion and sedimentation into streams, impacting water quality and riparian habitat. The Mammoth Creek watershed, which includes Mammoth Creek is a priority watershed and a 303d listed impaired water body; the project will prevent incursions into the Owen River Headwaters, White Mountains, and John Muir Wilderness Areas; the project will protect natural resources and scenic quality within the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area; the project will protect sensitive plants (Mono Lake lupin and Mono milkvetch) in the vicinity of the Mono Craters area; the project will reduce impacts to the springs and riparian area within Black Canyon, which provides habitat for the Panamint alligator lizard.

3. Reason for Project - Q 3.

3. Reason for the Project 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ○ Protect special-status species or cultural site (4 points)
- ◉ Restore natural resource system damaged by OHV activity (4 points)
- ○ OHV activity in a closed area (3 points)
- ○ Alternative measures attempted, but failed (2 points)

- ○ Management decision (1 point)
- ○ Scientific and cultural studies (1 point)
- ○ Planning efforts associated with Restoration (1 point)

Reference Document

Travel Management Record of Decision (2009); Inyo National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1988), as amended by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2004).

4. Measures to Ensure Success - Q 4.

4. Measures to ensure success –The Project makes use of the following elements to ensure successful implementation 8

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each (Please select applicable values)

- ☑ Site monitoring to prevent additional damage
- ☑ Construction of barriers and other traffic control devices
- ☑ Use of native plants and materials
- ☑ Incorporation of universally recognized 'Best Management Practices'
- ☐ Educational signage
- ☐ Identification of alternate OHV routes to ensure that OHV activities will not reoccur in restored area

Explain each item checked above:

As described in the project description, project activities include installation of barriers (using native materials) to discourage motor vehicle incursions, revegetation with native plants, and monitoring efforts. The project will be successful by: monitoring and adjusting restoration strategies based on the results of monitoring; installation and maintenance of barriers, which will delineate travel routes and restoration areas; and using native vegetation to restore areas to natural conditions. The Forest has extensive experience implementing "Best Management Practices" (BMPs). BMPs would be incorporated into the project design and implemented to ensure water quality and other forest resources are protected. The Forest is in the process of signing all routes designated as "open" and producing a Motor Vehicle Use Map that will be available to the public as part of implementing the Travel Management Record of Decision (2009). OHV enthusiasts will be able to clearly see and utilize alternative routes.

5. Publicly Reviewed Plan - Q 5.

5. Is there a publicly reviewed and adopted plan (e.g., wilderness designation, land management plans, route designation decisions) that supports the need for the Restoration Project? 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ○ No (No points)
- ◉ Yes (5 points)

Identify plan

Inyo National Forest Travel Management Record of Decision (2009); Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009; Inyo National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1988), as amended by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2004).

6. Primary Funding Source - Q 6.

6. Primary funding source for future operational costs associated with the Project will be: 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ◉ Applicant's operational budget (5 points)
- ○ Volunteer support and/or donations (3 points)
- ○ Other Grant funding (2 points)
- ○ OHV Trust Funds (No points)

If 'Operational budget' is checked, list reference document(s):

It is anticipated that the Forest's operational budget would be the primary funding source utilized to support future operational costs associated with this project, although other types of funding listed above may also be utilized where feasible, appropriate, and necessary to supplement the Forest's operational budget. The Forest has been actively utilizing Legacy Roads and Trails and Watershed funding to support these types of restoration projects (Region 5 budget direction for FY10, updated 2/2010). The Inyo NF will also continue to utilize volunteers and partnerships to support future operational needs related to this project.

7. Public Input - Q 7.

7. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 1 point each, up to a maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- [x] Publicly noticed meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
- [ ] Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
- [x] Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

Public involvement through multiple public and stakeholder meetings was an integral part of the Inyo National Forest Travel Management Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision.

8. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 8.

8. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 2

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ○ 4 or more (4 points)
- ◉ 2 to 3 (2 points)
- ○ 1 (1 point)
- ○ None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

Local access groups, Friends of the Inyo, Student Conservation Association, etc.

9. Scientific and Cultural Studies - Q 9.

9. Scientific and cultural studies will 6

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- [x] Determine appropriate Restoration techniques (2 points)
- [x] Examine potential effects of OHV Recreation on natural or cultural resources (2 points)
- [x] Examine methods to ensure success of Restoration efforts (1 point)
- [x] Lead to direct management action (1 point)

Explain each item checked above

Planning efforts, including field surveys and project design, along with experience with similar restoration projects will determine the appropriate restoration techniques and will lead to implementation. The interdisciplinary planning effort will also identify the site-specific effects of OHV recreation on natural and cultural resources, and will help in determining project design and restoration prescriptions. Follow up monitoring efforts would provide further information on determining the effectiveness of the restoration treatments. Based on this information, additional restoration work would occur as needed leading to direct management action and the techniques would be adjusted accordingly.

10. Underlying Problem - Q 10.

10. The underlying problem that resulted in the need for the Restoration Project has been effectively addressed and resolved 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ○ No (No points)
- ◉ Yes (3 points)

Explain 'Yes' answer

The Inyo National Forest Travel Management Record of Decision (2009) resulted in the designation of a sustainable system of roads and trails that provide OHV opportunities while minimizing impacts to natural and cultural resources. The routes that are proposed for restoration were not designated as part of the National Forest transportation system, and are unauthorized for OHV use.

11. Size of sensitive habitats - Q 11.

11. Size of sensitive habitats (e.g., wilderness, riparian, wetlands, ACEC) within the Project Area which will be restored 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ◉ Greater than 10 acres (5 points)
- ○ 1 – 10 acres (3 points)
- ○ Less than 1 acre (1 points)
- ○ No sensitive habitat within Project Area (No points)